

the Air Force, Tony has supported Air Force leadership by engaging Congress on programs and weapon systems authorizations, constituent inquiries, and other congressional interests. Among some of his more notable accomplishments during his tenure as Deputy Director, Tony prepared the Air Force team for confirmation hearings for the Air Force Secretary, Under Secretary, Chief of Staff, and the Vice Chief of Staff, all in an unprecedented 2-year time frame. He also supported more than 1,500 Air Force senior leader visits to the Hill as well as over 1,000 wing commander Hill visits, more than 450 congressional delegation and congressional staff trips, over 200 congressional hearings, and countless other Air Force Hill engagements.

Today, I would like to wish Mr. Anthony P. "Tony" Reardon good luck and Godspeed in his next assignment as the Director of Strategy, Resources and Integration for the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs. We know that this next chapter of his distinguished career will be one of even more success.

On behalf of the Congress and of the United States of America, I thank Tony; his wife, Dee; and their children, Maggie and Trip, for their patriotism, commitment to country, and service to Nation.

PUERTO RICO: HOW STATEHOOD WOULD POTENTIALLY AFFECT SELECTED FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND REVENUE SOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, this week, the GAO published a report about the fiscal impact of Puerto Rico statehood on the Federal Government.

In a 2012 referendum, a majority of voters in Puerto Rico said they didn't want Puerto Rico to remain a territory, and more voters favored statehood than any other option. In January, at my initiative, a law was enacted to provide funding for the first federally-sponsored vote in Puerto Rico's history. Meanwhile, in the past year, Puerto Rico's longstanding economic problems have devolved into a crisis. Every week, 1,000 of my constituents move to the States in search of opportunity and equality. Thus, the GAO has released its report at a time when island residents are voting for statehood—at the ballot box and with their feet—in unprecedented numbers.

The momentum in favor of statehood continues to build with this report, which supports the conclusion that statehood will be beneficial to Puerto Rico and to the U.S. as a whole.

The report confirms that statehood will enhance the quality of life in Puerto Rico. As a territory, Puerto Rico is treated unequally under key Federal spending and tax credit programs. As a

State, it will receive equal treatment. Based on the GAO's analysis and taking into account programs the GAO did not examine, it can be calculated that statehood will inject an additional \$10 billion into Puerto Rico's economy each year. This underscores the scope and severity of the discrimination Puerto Rico faces as a territory.

The report also alleviates the concern that statehood would have an adverse impact on the U.S. Treasury. As the GAO explains, new Federal outlays to Puerto Rico will be significantly counterbalanced by new Federal revenues generated from the island, which could amount to \$7 billion a year. As Puerto Rico prospers, collections will increase further.

The report, thus, reinforces that statehood, which is so plainly in Puerto Rico's interest, is also in the national interest. This Nation will benefit when Puerto Rico's economy is strong, when its residents don't need to move to the States to achieve their dreams or vote for their national leaders, when individuals and businesses on the island flourish, and when the tax base expands. The U.S. will profit from the state of Puerto Rico's success, just as it currently pays an economic and a moral price for the territory's shortcomings.

The reaction to the report from politicians in Puerto Rico who favor the status quo has been dishonest. Their strategy is clear: if you cannot convince the public, try to confuse the public.

For example, they claim the report concludes that hardworking island residents would have a large Federal tax liability under statehood. The report says no such thing, and the assertion is false. A typical household in Puerto Rico will pay the same or less in total taxes under statehood than it pays now due to the application of Federal tax credits and the ability of the Puerto Rico Government to reduce its high local rates once it no longer needs to finance a disproportionate share of public services.

In any event, this inaccurate argument shows disrespect for the people of Puerto Rico, who will be proud to assume both the rights and responsibilities of statehood. Throughout history, men and women have fought and fallen for equality and dignity. These principles are priceless.

My colleagues who requested the GAO report should now schedule a hearing on it. Seventy-five days have passed since the enactment of the law authorizing Puerto Rico to hold a federally-sponsored referendum, and 132 Members of Congress have sponsored my legislation that calls for a referendum on Puerto Rico's admission as a State, which requires Federal action if a majority of voters chooses statehood. If the Governor of Puerto Rico believes his claim that the GAO report is somehow damaging to statehood, he should have the courage of his convictions to conduct a statehood admission

vote with the available Federal funds without delay. His inaction speaks louder than his words.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Bryan Smith, First Baptist Church Roanoke, Roanoke, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we thank You for today, for the life that You have given to us, the riches of Your blessings, the freedoms we enjoy, and for Your gracious and tender mercies.

Forgive us for our transgressions against You, and help those gathered here today to work together in the knowledge of Your truth.

I thank You for these leaders who are here by Your authority. Please bless them and their families.

Give to them the wisdom, discernment, humility, and guidance they will need in fulfilling the obligations and responsibilities entrusted to them. May they be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

May their weakness be the revenue for Your strength; may their purpose for gathering today be honorable in Your sight; and may the work that is accomplished promote Your righteousness and peace throughout our Nation.

In Your holy name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COURTNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. BRYAN SMITH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome Dr. Bryan Smith, a constituent of the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia and a friend who has offered the opening prayer today. I hope the doctor's prayer offers this body guidance and wisdom for the tasks before us.

Dr. Smith serves as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, one of the largest congregations in Roanoke Valley. During his time at First Baptist, I have known Dr. Smith to be a man who believes in putting faith in action, working tirelessly to help others grow spiritually.

Dr. Smith and his wife, Mary, have served in ministry together for more than 25 years. They have two children. He is a graduate of Mobile College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I want to thank Dr. Smith for serving as guest chaplain in the House of Representatives today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OBAMACARE 30-HOUR RULE

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about a young American and one of my constituents from McKinney, Texas, who is doing her best to make a way for herself.

Jillian, a college student, has worked part-time at a local grocery store to help pay for her school expenses. For many years, Jillian clocked between 30 and 40 hours a week until suddenly that was cut down to 15 to 18 hours a week. Jillian learned the cuts were due to ObamaCare.

The new definition of full-time employment is 30 hours instead of the traditional 40 hours. Fewer work hours not only mean less take-home pay, but also less experience and less opportunity.

That is not the America we know and love. That is not the America we want to leave to our children and grandchildren. That is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act, to restore the traditional 40-hour workweek and help millions of hardworking Americans like Jillian.

FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, it is here. We have been waiting with bated breath for the Ryan budget, perhaps some of the biggest and most immediate problems confronting our Nation, things that will put people back to work and boost the economy.

For me, number one is the exhaustion of the highway trust fund, meaning, as of October 1 or earlier, the Federal Government will end all new authorization for State highway projects and bridge replacement and transit for 8 to 10 months because the highway trust fund is depleted.

If you look through the Ryan budget, it is the subject of three pages of narrative and is screed full of blather, but a close reading gets to a blueprint for the future of the national transportation system. He has a simple solution. We will end it. We will end it.

The legacy of Dwight David Eisenhower and a coordinated approach to a national transportation system, in the Ryan budget, it ends. He will devolve it, devolve it to the States. The 50 States assembled and the territories will be responsible for funding their own transportation system, and somehow it will serve national needs.

Let's stop this madness.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S BACK-
DOOR GOVERNMENT ABORTION
FUNDING

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the government's backdoor funding of abortions through grants to abortion provider Planned Parenthood. Forty-five percent of the organization's entire revenue, totaling roughly \$540 million in 2013, was provided directly by the American taxpayer through government grants.

Planned Parenthood performed 327,000 abortions in 2012. Planned Parenthood states in its own budgetary report for 2013:

We are the most effective advocate in the country for policies that protect access to abortion.

My constituents find the practice of abortion morally abhorrent and threatening to the social fabric of this country, and they should not be forced to subsidize abortions nationwide.

I call on this body to respect the conscience of millions of Americans by ending the practice of government funding for abortions.

RYAN BUDGET

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we learned the details of the Ryan budget, a proposal that would have devastating impacts on my western New York community.

For seniors, the Ryan budget would put Medicare on the road to privatization, handing older Americans a voucher and forcing them to fend for themselves to find quality health care.

This budget slashes Pell grants that provide young people the opportunity for a college education; ends AmeriCorps, a program filling a critical need in urban schools and neighborhoods; and eliminates all support for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Ryan budget would gut domestic priorities such as infrastructure, education, and medical research, cutting nation-building here by \$791 billion in less than a decade.

A budget is the clearest message of a nation's values. The Ryan budget abandons seniors, students, patients awaiting medical breakthroughs, and struggling families. This is not who we are as a nation.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Month of the Military Child, which is celebrated every April.

For generations, military children have supported those who serve by making their own sacrifices and persevering through tough times, especially those in families with parents on Active Duty or deployment.

For a child, there are few things more difficult than being apart from a mom or dad deployed overseas. Just since 2001, nearly 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment. Currently, there are approximately 1.2 million children of Active Duty U.S. members worldwide.

Sometimes overlooked, military families move three times as often as non-military families and share many of the hardships. Children and spouses in these circumstances also experience anxiety in higher rates than their non-military counterparts and must worry about new housing, jobs, friends, and schools.

With a son and daughter-in-law in the military, I know life in the service can be trying, but we thank these soldiers and their families for keeping us safe.